

From: Warren Beck
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:05am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Re: the Tunney Act

In my opinion, the proposed Microsoft settlement is not acceptable. Microsoft has and continues to act in a predatory manner that damages competition in nearly all areas of high-technology/computing. It continues to work towards a comprehensive stranglehold over all areas of software, including desktop productivity (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, databases, email and scheduling) and operating systems. Small software companies that are truly innovative (for instance, Netscape in its initial form) are either squelched or acquired. Further, the software that Microsoft sells in its currently monopoly-like state is bug-ridden and full of security problems that compromise the work of the consumer in a broad range of professions that depend on Microsoft's software (being that there is essentially only one supplier). Microsoft has no incentive due to competition to fix the bugs in its software, and it uses the promise of fixing bugs as an incentive to the consumer to purchase upgrades. In short, without valid and vigorous competition in all areas of software development/sales, Microsoft will eventually harm the economy through its malevolence and incompetence.

Accordingly, the proposed settlement must be rejected.

Thank you,

Warren Beck

Disclaimer: the opinion stated in this email is a personal one; no representation of the opinion of my employer, Michigan State University, is intended.

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